



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: June 2, 2014
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Page: 1 of 1

CITY AWARDED \$400,000 IN GRANTS FROM EPA FOR BROWNFIELDS PROJECTS

On May 27, 2014, the City of Tucson (City) Environmental Services Department was awarded two Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) totaling \$400,000. The grant funding will be used to conduct environmental assessments on properties which may be impacted with petroleum and hazardous substances. The grant project will focus on the City's Central Business District and the Origins Gateway redevelopment areas, which encompass downtown Tucson.

The City of Tucson's efforts to encourage downtown development have resulted in more than \$900 million being invested. Brownfields funding has supported major infrastructure construction like the Downtown Links project which will connect the Barraza-Aviation Corridor to I-10. Environmental Services will use the new grant to conduct Environmental Site Assessments on public and privately-owned properties smoothing the way for redevelopment, ultimately generating jobs and stimulating the local economy. "The Brownfields grant, in combination with City of Tucson incentive programs are building upon the momentum the City is experiencing with the revitalization of downtown. We are very excited to help create opportunities for creative reuse in the heart of Tucson," said Andrew Quigley, Director of Environmental Services.

Since 1997, Environmental Services has received over \$3.2 million in Brownfields grant funding from the EPA to complete assessments and cleanup of Brownfields sites within the City. In Fiscal Year 2010, the City was awarded a \$400,000 Community-wide Brownfields Grant which allowed Environmental Services to complete environmental assessments on 72 parcels.

Brownfields are properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The EPA's Brownfields Program was developed to help states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and reuse brownfields.

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